

WHITSTABLE,

February 12th, 1907.

To the Chairman and Members of the Whitstable Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have to report that the Births registered within the Urban District during the year 1906 amounted to 173—92 males and 81 females: the deaths were 97, of which

24	were	under	1	year	of	age.
4	were	upwards	of	1	and	under 5.
4	„	„	5	„	15.	
3	„	„	15	„	25.	
35	„	„	25	„	65.	
27	„	„	65	years	of	age.

in the latter number were included 13 of persons upwards of 80, and 1 of 94.

Four inquests were held, 1 on a lady who was accidentally drowned in her bath from fainting, 1 on an infant who was accidentally suffocated by the bed clothes, 1 on a lady visitor who died suddenly from Fatty Disease of the Heart, and 1 on an infant of 20 days who was accidentally overlaid in bed: there was 1 death from Whooping Cough, 1 from Continued Fever, 6 from Epidemic Influenza, 12 from Diarrhœa, 5 from Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases, 9 from Cancer, 6 from Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases, 5 from Premature Birth, 13 from Heart Diseases, and 35 from all other causes: 2 residents died in the Herne Isolation Hospital, 2 in the Canterbury Hospital, and five in the Blean Union Infirmary: 6 deaths of non-residents were included in the 97 registered, the nett number thus being exactly 100.

The Birth Rate was 22'4.

The Death Rate 12'9.

The Mortality of Infants under 1 year of age was 131'7 per 1000 Births registered.

a great contrast to the return of the year 1905 which was but 59'4; the large increase being accounted for by Diarrhœa which was so prevalent during the prolonged heat of the Summer.

Of Infectious Diseases notified, 2 were cases of Diphtheria, 3 of Erysipelas, 13 of Scarlet Fever, and 10 of Enteric Fever: 4 cases of Scarlet Fever and 1 of Enteric Fever were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

There was, as usual, a large number of visitors to the town during the Summer and Autumn.

In the Spring there was a slight outbreak of Scarlet Fever, and in the Summer and Autumn a few cases of Enteric Fever, also a prevalence of Diarrhœa, principally amongst the Infantile population.

Sixty new houses have been built during the year, and one new road made up and taken over by the Council.

The District is generally flat towards the sea, rising gradually inland and bounded on the land side by elevations: the soil is of clay.

A large proportion of the Inhabitants are engaged in the Oyster and other Fisheries; many are employed in Sailing Vessels and Barges with the work at the Harbour incidental thereto; some are engaged in the Building Trade: mostly occupied in out-door work the male population is generally healthy.

The House accommodation for the working classes is generally good, the greater portion having a considerable amount of back garden, and the surroundings are mostly clean. The Council exercise supervision over the erection of all new houses.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30274266>

Six Cottages having been reported unfit for habitation were ordered by the Council to be closed.

The Council have the full control of the Sewage and Drainage which is discharged by outfalls into the Sea.

The system of excrement disposal is by water closets, and appears to be satisfactory.

The Removal of House Refuse is regularly effected by covered vans, and is conveyed to waste land at a distance from the Town.

The Water Supply is principally derived from the Water Company's Mains into which it is pumped from two Artesian Wells; it is periodically analysed and has been found satisfactory. Some houses are still supplied from Wells which are carefully noted in the event of any suspicious illness arising among any using such water.

There are no Lodging Houses, Offensive Trades, Textile Factories or underground Bakehouses: the Slaughterhouses, Dairies, Cow-sheds, and Bakehouses are frequently visited, these as well as the Workshops and the few existing Factories have been found satisfactory.

The Public Elementary Schools are comparatively modern, and those which are of more ancient construction have been improved and brought up to the requirements of the Educational Authority; the sanitary condition and water supply are satisfactory; in the event of illness or suspicion of infectious disease, the teachers at once apprise a medical man of the fact.

The Bye-Laws are enforced when necessary, and appear to be satisfactory.

In the event of Nuisances arising, immediate steps are taken for their abatement by notices; during the past year no legal proceedings have been necessary.

The Notification of Infectious Diseases Act was adopted by the Council in December, 1894, and cases of Infectious Diseases, where the patients cannot be isolated and properly nursed in their own homes, are removed to the Hospital at Herne; the Council have a Disinfecting Chamber and Isolation Hospital for Small-Pox Cases about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Town, but since its erection no case has occurred; all Houses where Infectious Diseases have occurred are afterwards disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector.

The Sanitary condition of the Workshops and Workplaces is satisfactory, as being generally on a small scale and but few hands employed, there is little risk of overcrowding, and there being no instance in which both sexes are employed, section 22 does not apply to the district.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jno. W. Hayward". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Medical Officer of Health.

